

ABSTRACT

A user control channel for a wireless digital subscriber line systems and the like, or other communications systems which can benefit from a control channel which provides a low data rate connection between stations on an ongoing basis, makes efficient use of transmission capacity in the communications systems. In one embodiment, the user control channel has a structure employing slotted frames, and a user can be assigned multiple slots, a single slot or less than a single slot (sharing slots with other users) to meet the data transmission needs of the user. Also, one or more slots can be designated as random access slots which users can access via an Aloha-like or other random access protocol as needed.